671 from the Swedish-Finnish period and based on the idea of the active co-operation of the people. The law is trusted by the people and felt to be binding on everybody, the highest executive 647 powers included. Civil servants and officials have generally demonstrated high moral standards--to assure them complete impartiality their positions are made permanent, forfeited only in the case of a serious misdemeanor--and [662] corruption has been almost unknown. Lately, [551] political connections have begun to play an important role in public life, and, as indicated above, they have been sometimes decisive over professional merit in filling open positions in the administration.

SOURCES

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